



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of **Halseth et al**

Application No. 09/633,793

Attorney Docket No. 1032-P01510US1

Filed: August 7, 2000

For: Fluid Sampling Device with Retractable  
Needle

Examiner: Ghafoorian

Group Art Unit: 3731

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**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Cancel claims 8-13 and 27-53.

**Claims**

1. (Previously Amended) A method for withdrawing a fluid sample from a patient, comprising the steps of:
  - a. providing a sampling device having a housing, a plunger and a needle having a sharpened tip for piercing the patient;
  - b. collecting fluid from the patient in the housing;
  - c. retracting the needle into the plunger so that the sharpened tip of the needle is shielded to prevent inadvertent contact with the sharpened tip; and
  - d. expelling the fluid from the housing after the needle is retracted.
2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of expelling fluid comprises the step of displacing the plunger within the housing.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 comprising the step of sealing the fluid within the housing.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of retracting comprises the step of displacing the needle rearwardly into the housing while the collected fluid is in the housing.